



The Adventure of Creating a Picture Language

Once upon a time, there was a clever little girl named Taffy. She loved adventures and had a great curiosity about the world. One day, after a funny incident involving her daddy's spear, a stranger, and a peculiar picture-letter, Taffy and her daddy went fishing together.

Taffy's mom wanted her to stay home and help with chores, but Taffy had other plans. She sneaked out early in the morning to join her daddy by the river. As they sat fishing, Taffy giggled recalling the amusing events of the previous week, especially how the stranger looked with mud in his hair!

Her daddy, Tegumai, chuckled too but reminded her of the two soft deerskins he had to give away to make up for their mischief. They decided not to talk more about it and enjoyed a lovely lunch together.

After lunch, Taffy, always brimming with ideas, suggested a secret game. She asked her daddy to make different noises. With each noise, they would create a special sign to remember it by. This was Taffy's secret-surprise plan.

Her daddy agreed, and they started with the noise 'Ah!' Taffy drew a wide-open carp-fish mouth to represent this sound. Her daddy added the feeler that hangs across the carp's mouth, making their secret sign even better.

Next was 'Yah!' They decided to draw a part of the carp-fish for this sound too. The game was getting more exciting! Taffy loved the idea of having their own special code.

They continued creating signs for different noises – 'Oh!' was represented by an egg shape, 'Ssh!' by a snake, and many more. Taffy and her daddy were so engrossed in their game, drawing and laughing together.

Taffy realized they were making their very own language with these signs! It was their secret way of talking without words. Her daddy was amazed too. He said Taffy might have discovered the world's biggest secret – a way to talk without speaking!

They spent the whole day by the river, inventing new signs and laughing at their secret codes. As they walked back home, they knew they had created something special – a language of pictures that could tell stories, share secrets, and maybe one day, be used by everyone!

That night, Taffy fell asleep, dreaming of all the stories she could tell with her new picture language, feeling happy and proud of her wonderful day of discovery with her daddy. And that's the story of how little Taffy and her daddy created a whole new way of talking, with pictures instead of words, right by the banks of the river, a long, long time ago.